

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00383 042041Z

64

ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: SGEN

SUBJ: UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 25TH SESSION -
ROUNDUP

1. SUMMARY: SESSION CHARACTERIZED BY EMERGENCE OF THE
US IN NEW HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERSHIP ROLE ON ISSUE OF EQUAL
RIGHTS FOR WOMEN. SOVIET OPPOSITION TO US-LDC SPONSORED
RESOLUTION ASKING UN TO CALL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE DURING
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (IWY) REVEALED CLEAR SOVIET
BIAS AGAINST EQUALITY FOR WOMEN. TIMELY RELEASE OF
PRESIDENTIAL IWY PROCLAMATION DURING SESSION FURTHER UNDER-
LINED US DEDICATION TO EQUAL RIGHTS PRINCIPLES. CREATED
ADDED SUPPORT FOR US IWY RES AND EFFECTIVELY STALLED SOVIET
DRIVE DESIGNED TO FOCUS WORLD WIDE ATTENTION ON SINGLE
COMMUNIST WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MOSCOW IN
1975. US INITIATIVES IN INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN UN PROGRAMS
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FOR DEVELOPMENT, FAMILY PLANNING, OBSERVANCE OF IWY WIDELY

SUPPORTED. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMISSION CONCLUDED HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE, FORWARD
LOOKING PROGRAM FOR SESSION THAT ENDED LATE FEBRUARY 1.
WORK CHARACTERIZED BY ACTION PROGRAMS TO ACCELERATE
INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN UN EMPLOYMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS IN ALL ELEMENTS OF THE UN SYSTEM, AND OTHER AREAS
THAT WILL ADVANCE THEIR STATUS.

3. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED FAVORABLE IMPACT US INITIATIVES
FOR OBSERVANCE OF IWY, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROVIDING
NEW US LEADERSHIP ROLE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA AND DECISIVE
PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE OVER SOVIETS. CLEARLY ESTABLISHED
US LEADERSHIP IN EQUAL RIGHTS STRUGGLE OF WOMEN BY REVEALING
STRONG SOVIET BIAS THIS SUBJECT. RESULT WAS A REALIGNMENT
OF OLD COMMISSION VOTING PATTERNS WITH SUPPORT FROM LDC'S
AND PRC FOR THE US AGAINST SOCIALISTS.

4. LDCS SUPPORT ON QUESTION OF EQUAL RIGHTS CAME DURING
SERIES OF HARD FOUGHT BATTLES WITH SOVIETS OVER ISSUE
OF CHANGING UN PRIORITIES TO PERMIT UN FUNDING OF IWY
CONFERENCE. SOVIET OPPOSITION AND INTERVENTIONS BY MALE
MEMBERS OF DELEGATION REVEALED STRONG BIAS AGAINST EQUALITY
FOR WOMEN. NINE LDC'S FROM ALL DEVELOPING REGIONS JOINED
US IN CO-SPONSORING CONFERENCE RES THAT WON DECISIVELY
21(US, LDCS, PRC)-3(USSR, BYELORUSSIA SSR, HUNGARY)-6.
SUBSTITUTION OF MALE MEMBER OF SOVIET DELEGATION IN CHAIR
DURING A FUTILE FILIBUSTER EFFORT CREATED WIDESPREAD
ANTAGONISM AMONG DELEGATES. GENEROUS AND WARM-HEARTED
POSITION SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPTED BY USSR DELEGATE WHO HAD BEEN
TEMPORARILY REPLACED BY MALE COLLEAGUE REVERSED TREND SOME-
WHAT BEFORE SESSION ENDED BUT DID NOT MATERIALLY AFFECT
WIDE PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE GAINED BY THE US MOVE AND THE
SOVIET BLUNDER.

5. THE READING OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S IWY PROCLAMATION,
THE FIRST BY ANY CHIEF OF STATE, IN CONCLUDING DAYS OF
SESSION AND PRIOR TO VOTE, ADDED MOMENTUM TO FAVORABLE
VOTE AND US LEADERSHIP AND SERVED AS PUT-DOWN FOR SOVIET
POSITION AGAINST EQUALITY. REQUESTS POURED IN FROM ALL
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DELEGATIONS FOR COPIES OF PROCLAMATION FOR USE BY GOVERN-
MENTS IN PREPARATION OF SIMILAR INSTRUMENTS FURTHER STRENGTH-
ENING PROPAGANDA IMPACT OF US INITIATIVE.

6. DESPITE SOVIET OPPOSITION TO RAPPORTEUR STUDY ON STATUS
OF WOMEN AND FAMILY PLANNING, RESOLUTION FOR ITEM ADOPTED
24(US)-0-8(USSR) CALLING FOR RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO
DECIDE FREELY AND RESPONSIBLY ON THE NUMBER OF SPACING

OF THEIR CHILDREN, ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSIONS, INTRODUCTION OF POPULATION EDUCATION AND EQUAL REPRESENTATION OF MEN AND WOMEN ON DELEGATIONS TO 1974 WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE.

7. RESOLUTIONS ON DEVELOPMENT ASKED ECOSOC TO INCLUDE IN ALL SESSIONS OF COMMITTEES ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL AND DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING, INFORMATION THAT WILL GIVE DUE ATTENTION TO THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN BOTH IN PROGRAM REVIEW AND IN SUBSEQUENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THOSE BODIES. AUTHORIZED CHAIRWOMAN OF THE COMMISSION TO REPRESENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE PREPARATION OF REVIEW AND APPRAISAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

8. EGYPTIAN-USSR EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN ITEM OF PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY AND ARMED CONFLICTS SUCCEEDED WITH ACCEPTANCE OF DRAFT RES CALLING FOR PREPARATION OF FORMAL DECLARATION ON SUBJECT BASED ON WIDF (COMMUNIST NGO) PROPOSAL. US-UK APPEAL THAT SUBJECT BEST TREATED BY PROPER JURIDICAL BODY IN THE LIGHT OF FEBRUARY ICRC MEETINGS IN GENEVA INEFFECTIVE.

9. WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN NEW AGENDA ITEM ON INFLUENCE OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA ON ROLE OF WOMEN AND US VIEWS THIS SUBJECT. RES URGED GOVERNMENTS AND MASS MEDIA TO WORK TOWARDS ELIMINATION OF SEX ROLE STEROTYPING, FURTHER STUDY AND RESEARCH.

10. US REP TO STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION SHOULD BE PRESENT AT NEXT ECOSOC TO PRESERVE US INITIATIVES AND WORK FOR APPROVAL OF COMMISSION PROGRAM BY COUNCIL.
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